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**TRANSPORTABLE WATER PURIFICATION SYSTEMS SENT TO
GULF COAST FOR HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF**

***--U.S. Army, Office of Naval Research and Bureau of Reclamation
Deployed Temporary Water Treatment Systems To Sites In
Biloxi, Pascagoula and Waveland, MS--***

WARREN, Mich., Oct. 3 - As the hurricane-battered gulf coast worked to restore its permanent water systems, large-scale transportable purification units from the U.S. Army, the Department of the Interior, and the Office of Naval Research (ONR) were sent to the region to temporarily support gulf coasts residents with potable water for showers and drinking.

The collaborative effort of city, state and federal organizations put five emergency systems in place at four sites to provide water to a hospital as well as local populations that were without clean water after Hurricane Katrina struck on August 30.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) initially requested Expeditionary Unit Water Purifiers (EUWPs) be sent to the region shortly after the disaster. The EUWP is capable of producing as much as 200,000 gallons of potable water per day from a fresh water source or 100,000 gallons from salt water. It is the largest transportable desalinization system in the world and can be moved by truck or C-130 military aircraft.

Engineers from the Army's Tank Automotive Research Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) and the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, set up a system to serve the Biloxi Regional Medical Center. It continues to substitute for the hospital's normal water while repairs are made to the city's permanent lines.

As additional capability, two 600-gallon-per-hour Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Units (ROWPUs), and one 1500-gallon-per-hour Tactical Water Purification Systems (TWPS), were sent to the region.

The two ROWPUs were initially deployed at a shopping mall parking lot at the intersection of Waveland Avenue and Route 90 in Waveland, MS, while the TWPS was emplaced at a trailer camp at Buccaneer Beach State Park serving city administrative personnel who were displaced from their homes.

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Katrina Water Purification/ Page 2 of 2



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The TWPS is newly developed equipment designed to replace the aging ROWPUs. The EUWPs are the Armed Forces' latest development in large-scale transportable systems. Only two units exist in the world. They are normally deployed as demonstrators for diagnostics and testing of next-generation water purification equipment.

The relief mission in Mississippi is the second deployment of an EUWP in a real-world disaster relief scenario. Previously, the unit now in Pascagoula was deployed to Port Clarence, Alaska, Coast Guard station, where it produced approximately 250,000 gallons of purified water in 3 days, after a storm surge flooded the areas fresh water ponds.

TARDEC and Reclamation received support from the 38th Infantry Division's 38th Main Support Battalion in deploying the units in Mississippi. Development of this technology is a collaborative effort with input from partners including: the Environmental Protection Agency, NASA and private academia.

"We are pleased this emerging technology has been put to use to help the people affected by one of the most devastating hurricanes in this country's history," said Dr. Richard E. McClelland, Director, TARDEC. "Years of research, design and engineering have gone into the development of this technology so that it can be helpful in such a critical situation today."

TARDEC is headquartered at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren, Michigan and is located in the heart of the world's automotive capital. Part of the Army Materiel Command's Research, Development and Engineering Command, TARDEC is the nation's laboratory for advanced military automotive technology. TARDEC's mission is to research, develop, engineer, leverage and integrate advanced technology into ground systems and support equipment. TARDEC's 1,100 associates develop and maintain vehicles for all US Armed Forces, numerous federal agencies and over 60 foreign countries. TARDEC continually pushes the state-of-the-art in technology areas of survivability, mobility, intelligent systems and maneuver support and sustainment, making sure that it fields robust equipment that meets the performance needs of the soldier.

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